

LOCAL
Grizzly Fest
finally reveals
daily lineups
and tickets 2A



EATING OUT
Former Tahoe
Joe's to become a
Sinaloan-centric
restaurant 7B



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Sunny, clear
71°/42° See 16A

The Fresno Bee



Russians charged with U.S. election conspiracy



Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein announces the Russia probe indictments Friday.

BY SHARON LAFRANIERE
New York Times

WASHINGTON
The special counsel investigating Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election charged 13 Russian nationals and three Russian organizations Friday with illegally trying to disrupt the U.S. political process, including efforts designed to boost the presidential candi-

dacy of Donald Trump and hurt that of his opponent, Hillary Clinton.

The indictment represents the first charges by the special counsel, Robert Mueller, for meddling in the 2016 presidential election – the fundamental crime that he was assigned to investigate.

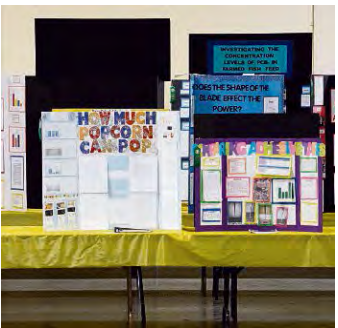
In a 37-page indictment filed in U.S. District Court, Mueller said the 13 individuals have conspired since 2014 to violate

laws that prohibit foreigners from spending money to influence federal elections in the United States.

The indictment charges that the foreigners falsely posed as U.S. citizens, stole identities, and otherwise engaged in fraud and deceit in an effort to influence the U.S. political process, including the 2016 presidential race.

"The nature of the scheme was the defendants took extraordinary steps to make it appear that they were ordinary American political activists," Rod Rosenstein, the deputy attorney general overseeing Mueller's inquiry, said in a brief news conference Friday after-

SEE RUSSIANS, 5A



LOCAL
**STUDENT SAYS
A SCIENCE FAIR
COMPETITION
WAS RIGGED**

A former Clovis North High School honors student contends in a civil lawsuit that the Fresno County Science Fair was rigged in 2014, 2015, and 2016. 4A

FLORIDA MASSACRE

FBI says it failed to act on tips about school shooter



AMY BETH BENNETT AP

Maria Creed is overcome with emotion as she crouches in front of one of the memorial crosses at Pine Trails Park in Parkland, Fla., on Friday that were placed for the victims of the Wednesday shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Creed's son, Michael Creed, is a sophomore at the school.

BY JAY WEAVER, SARAH BLASKEY,
DAVID OVALLE AND NICHOLAS
NEHAMAS

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The FBI received two alarming tips about Nikolas Cruz in the past six months: Someone who knew him well believed he was capable of murdering teachers and students. And an online commenter using the handle "nikolas cruz" professed his desire to become a "professional school shooter."

But no one at the FBI connected the dots or shared information about Cruz with the agents who might have stopped him before Wednesday, when he killed 17 people at a high school in Parkland, Fla.

The day after the massacre, the FBI said it had no way to trace the chilling online comment, flagged in September by a tipster in Mississippi, to south Florida.



ANDREW HARNIK AP

President Donald Trump, center, accompanied by first lady Melania Trump, shakes hands Friday with Dr. Igor Nichiporenko, while visiting with medical staff who treated shooting victims at Broward Health North in Pompano Beach, Fla.

Then, in a shocking admission Friday, FBI Director Christopher Wray said the tip from the person close to Cruz – delivered in a Jan. 5 phone call to a

bureau hotline – was never passed along to the FBI's field office in Miami, as official protocol required.

The inability of federal law

enforcement to identify Cruz exposes a disturbing lack of communication within the FBI, as well as a cursory initial inquiry that should have been pursued more aggressively, according to law enforcement sources and grieving survivors.

If the leads had been passed along to federal agents in south Florida, "they would have run them to ground and possibly prevented the school shootings," said a law enforcement official who asked not to be identified discussing an ongoing investigation.

A former federal agent agreed: "Absolutely, it would have made a difference. Even if they had just gone to interview him at his home, they could have confronted him about his guns and taken them away" because of his violent threats to schoolchildren.

Cruz, 19, is the third person in Florida who had been on law

SEE FBI WARNING, 7A



NATION & WORLD
**PLAYMATE
SPEAKS ABOUT
TRUMP AFFAIR**

A woman who says that she and President Trump had an affair over a decade ago offered new details about the alleged relationship and an effort to buy her silence. 12A

BUSINESS
**FACEBOOK SETS
SIGHTS ON KIDS**

Facebook is forging ahead with its messaging app for kids, despite child experts who have pressed the company to shut it down. 13A



SPORTS
**CARR AND FAMILY
HAVE A MONSTER
OF A GOOD TIME**

Derek Carr, his wife, Heather and their two sons, Deker and Dallas, saw their favorite Monster Jam truck Zombie on Thursday. 1B

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